

Message Text

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44

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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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TAGS: PFOR, LY, EG

SUBJECT: LIBYAN EDITORIAL ATTACK ON SADAT AND EGYPTIAN POLICY

1. SUMMARY. WITHOUT NAMING NAMES LIBYAN DAILY HAS MADE VIOLENT EDITORIAL ATTACK ON SADAT ACCUSING HIM OF "SHAMEFUL SERVILITY BEFORE ISRAELIS", AND OF TURNING HIS BACK ON A "GENEROUS BROTHER" (QADHAFI). WE INTERPRET EDITORIAL AS EXPRESSION OF QADHAFI'S RAGE AT SADAT'S REFUSAL TO MEET HIM AND HIS APPARENT INABILITY TO HARDEN EGYPTIAN POLICY ON A SETTLEMENT, EITHER BY OFFERS OF ARMS OR FINANCIAL AID. NO DEVELOPMENTS WE ARE AWARE OF QUITE EXPLAIN THIS SUDDEN OUTBURST OF PUBLIC DURY. END SUMMARY.

2. LIBYAN DAILY CARRIED VIOLENT ATTACK FEB 21 ON PRESIDENT SADAT AND EGYPTIAN POLICY. FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN AL-JIHAD CONDEMNS "THOSE WHO CANNOT KEEP A PROMISE, THOUGH IT WERE SWORN INSIDE THE KAABA", REFERRING TO OATH SADAT AND QADHAFI REPORTEDLY SWORE JUST ONE YEAR AGO AT MECCA. (ACCORDING TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIBYANS, OATH WAS "WE SWEAR BY ALMIGHTY GOD THAT WE WILL NOT

BETRAY OUR NATION, ABANDON OUR CAUSE, NEGLECT OUR RELIGION, OR HESITATE IN REALIZING ARAB UNITY".) THESE FAITHLESS PEOPLE (SADAT ET AL) ARE SAID TO HAVE ATTACKED LIBYA "WHEN FIRST SIGNS OF DETENTE WERE APPEARING ON HORIZON" (APPARENTLY REFERENCE TO NUMEIRI MEDIATION, AND EXCHANGES AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN RECENT MONTHS). "INDEED THEIR FAILURE AND THEIR SHAMEFUL SERVILITY BEFORE ISRAELIS LEAD THEM TO ATTACK THEIR BROTHERS TO COVER THE STIGMA OF DEFEAT". LIBYA WILL RETURN TWO BLOWS FOR EVERY ONE OF THEIRS, "UNTIL THEIR CORRUPT MOUTHS ARE SILENCED AND THEY GET WHAT THEY DESERVE, AND UNTIL THE CHIEF OF THE DOGS (PRESIDENT SADAT, PRESUMABLY) IS AT BAY".

3. EDITORIAL CONTINUES: "HOW CAN ONE UNDERSTAND PSYCHOLOGY OF THESE HERETICS AND THEIR ACTIONS? THEY ARE GENEROUS WITH THEIR ENEMIES, WHO IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON THEM, BUT THOSE WHO ARE TRULY GENEROUS (QADHAFI, OBVIOUSLY) ARE PAID BACK IN CONTEMPT.... REASON THE DOGS ARE BARKING NOW IS THAT THERE IS TO BE A NEW CONCESSION OF OUR HONOR AND OUR LANDS TO ISRAELIS. TO THESE HATEFUL PLOTTERS, WE SAY THEIR CRIMINAL ATTEMPTS ARE DIRECTED AGAINST THEIR PEOPLE FIRST AND FOREMOST, FOR WHOM THEY CLAIM TO SPEAK (GOD CUT OUT THEIR FILTHY TONGUES).... OUR MASSES KNOW EVERY TIME AN HONEST BROTHER (QADHAFI) DOES SOMETHING WHICH WOULD HELP THE MASSES, THEY (EGYPTIANS) GO BACK TO VITUPERATION, BECAUSE THEY WANT OUR MASSES TO PROSTRATE THEMSELVES BEFORE THE ENEMY. IN PLAIN LANGUAGE, WE SAY THAT WHAT WAS AGREED ON IN AUGUST 1974 AT ALEXANDRIA HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED". (ALEXANDRIA AGREEMENT WAS TO STOP PUBLIC ATTACKS ON BOTH SIDES, AND IN SADAT'S WORDS TO "LIQUIDATE ALL THAT IS BETWEEN US".)

4. "FROM NOW ON WE CANNOT LET PASS ANY CHANCE TO SPEAK, AND WE WILL ESCALATE EVERYTHING UP TO THE END, WHETHER AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL OR A STATE. WE WILL REVEAL ALL FACTS AND FROM NOW ON WE WILL SPARE NO ONE.... LASTLY, BUT NOT LASTLY, WE REVEAL THAT THE INFIDELS HAVE TURNED DOWN OFFER OF THEIR BROTHERS TO STAND WITH THEM MATERIALLY, MORALLY, POLITICALLY, AND MILITARILY. FINALLY, WE WILL NOT DEVIATE ONE FINGERTIP BREADTH FROM ROAD OF STRUGGLE WE HAVE CHOSEN.... WE WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT THEY ARE PREPARING TO DO".
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5. COMMENT. ONLY QADHAFI COULD HAVE AUTHORIZED, OR MORE PROBABLY WRITTEN, SUCH A BLAST. INFORMATION MINISTRY HAS STRICT RULE NEVER TO USE THE WORD "ISRAELI", OR ONE THING, PREFERRED TERM BEING "ZIONIST ENEMY". EDITORIAL SEEMS TO BE AS MUCH EXPRESSION OF QADHAFI'S RAGE AT SADAT'S REFUSAL TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIM SINCE TWO MEN MET LAST AUGUST AS A PROTEST AT DEVELOPMENTS IN NEGOTIATIONS. NOTHING OF WHICH

WE ARE AWARE QUITE ACCOUNTS FOR ITS SUDDEN FURY. IN FACT, THINGS HAD SEEMED TO BE GOING WELL ON MINISTERIAL LEVEL BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF HOUSING OSMAN AHMED OSMAN WAS HERE LAST WEEK, MET JALLUD, AND FIGNED AGREEMENT TO BUILD 20,000 HOUSING UNITS IN LIBYA, AT TOTAL COST OF 850 MILLION DOLLARS; OTHER SUCH NON-POLITICAL EXCHANGES HAD BEEN CONTINUING. PERHAPS EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI'S RECENT REMARK TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY THAT QADHAFI "WOULD BE DEALT WITH AT APPROPRIATE TIME" (CAIRO 1879), WITH WHAT SOUNDS TO US LIKE ITS OMINOUS IMPLICATIONS, GOT QADHFI'S GOAT. REPORTS OF SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN SPLIT OVER NEGOTIATING TACTICS MAY ALSO HAVE EMBOLDENED HIM.
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